

term I remember seeing a particularly outstanding show on WHFT which I thought really dealt with an important issue in the community, that of abortion and teen pregnancy. The program featured the director of the Pregnancy Center, Jane Morrison, who discussed the problems faced by young pregnant women. She also told about the resources available in the community for young women who wish to keep their babies, including a new program in which young women who do not want to have an abortion can be placed in the home of a family who will support her through her pregnancy and the infancy of the child, and pay her medical bills. This program underlines one difference between WHFT programming and programming on other TV stations. On other stations the program would have featured a debate about abortion, or provided information about the problem of teenage pregnancy. WHFT's emphasis is on the solution to the problem, and on identifying someone to go to for help if you have that problem. Other stations show that there are people who need help, WHFT tells you where you can go in Dade County for help.

8. I watch WHFT's local PTL program on a regular basis, and the show is almost always about a problem that someone is trying to make into a positive. Especially with divisive issues such as conflicts between races and ethnic groups in South Florida, the hosts and guests on WHFT's local programming are always trying to bring peace and unity to the community through prayer, and are appealing for unity and reason instead of anger and division. In 1991 a fire started in the predominantly Puerto-Rican section close to Overtown, and rioting started. PTL's host at that time, an

African-American pastor named Harold Ray, focused his guests on the problems of the area, and constantly exhorted people to put aside their anger and deal with the community's problems in a constructive and peaceful way. The section quieted down pretty quickly, and I don't know if the PTL program had anything to do with it, but anyone who watched the program couldn't help but be moved by Mr. Ray's appeals.

9. I have three children, ages 9, 5 and 16 months. Two of my daughters watched television during the license term, and I watched some programming with them. WHFT's children's programming was outstanding. Both my daughters watched and enjoyed "The Filling Station," a program for younger kids, which used biblical scriptures to teach children about the alphabet, and about colors and numbers. The show also teaches children about the moral lessons and the lessons about their behavior that can be learned from the Bible. My older daughter watched and enjoyed "Circle Square," a program that again teaches about the Bible but stresses more geography than programs for younger children. The show also teaches moral values and lessons about human relationships, such as how to deal with a friend with whom the child has had an argument, how to deal with conflict with siblings, and other relational problems. Both my daughters also watched and enjoyed "Quigley Village," a show that, because it uses puppets a great deal, reminds me of "Sesame Street." Once again the program teaches children about letters, numbers and colors, but it also teaches moral values. The program seems geared toward children from 4 to 7.

10. WHFT has a reputation as a good Christian station and is one that is well respected in the community. Miami is a divided community, and has many tensions and is largely polarized. WHFT helps to unify the community because the people who appear on its programs and who host its programs are from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. Often you will see a program with an African-American host and Hispanic and Anglo guests discussing a problem of common to the whole community. That unity is not something that is often seen in the South Florida area, but it is often featured on WHFT.

SUPPORTING DECLARATION

I, David Vega, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America that the forgoing "Declaration of David Vega," consisting of six (6) pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 5 day of August, 1993.


David Vega

DECLARATION OF BARBARA L. WADE

1. My name is Barbara L. Wade. I am a co-founder and the Executive Director of Positive, Inc., a community-based organization founded in 1988 to foster the rehabilitation of local street gang leaders, members, and drug abusers by promoting positive changes in their negative behavior. Positive, Inc., is frequently referred to by the National League of Cities as the number one program model for cities to use when combating the problem of organized street gangs. My residence address is 11125 Southwest 156 Terrace, Miami, Florida 33157. My office address is the Office of the Mayor, City of Miami, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida, 33133. I am submitting this declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission my testimony concerning the contribution to community welfare that Television Station WHFT (Channel 45) made during the period May, 1991 through December, 1991.

2. My principal connection with Channel 45 during that period was through my work with Positive, Inc. In the early part of 1991, I was contacted by WHFT to discuss Positive, Inc.'s rehabilitation program, and the emerging problem of organized street gangs in the Miami area. At that time, not many local stations were focused on the problem of street gang activity and I was pleasantly shocked when the station reached out to solicit my input about the problem. I spoke at length with a station representative about Positive, Inc., and how we could develop a show that would effectively address the Miami

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area's emerging problem with street gangs. I was impressed during that interview with the station's thoroughness and by the genuine concern it expressed about the issue.

3. In June of 1991, I appeared as a panelist on the interview style public affairs program "Feedback," along with two former leaders of rival Miami street gangs. We discussed the problem of gang violence in the Miami area, and the former gang leaders described the consequences of gang membership. The gang leaders and I were quite impressed with the way we were treated by the station. All of us, particularly the former gang leaders, were made to feel welcomed and were treated with kindness and respect. This created a relaxed atmosphere that resulted in a very successful show. The station subsequently aired the program several times, both locally and nationally, and the former gang leaders were invited appear on the station a second time to discuss their experiences with gang life.

4. After our appearance on the station, I learned from others in the community that quite a few kids had watched the show, and that many of them were directly and positively affected by what they saw on the program. In this regard, I was told that the kids had learned from respected street gang leaders that life in a street gang is not glamorous, and that it is often violent, dangerous and short. The kids also learned by watching rival gang leaders work together that bitter differences between people often can be overcome and resolved.

After our appearance, Positive, Inc., received numerous calls from people in the community who said they had seen or heard about the show, including street gang members, potential gang members, parents and even other television stations, inquiring about the organization's rehabilitation program. Positive, Inc., also experienced an increase in the number of people who began participating in its program after watching or hearing about the show, and also witnessed a decrease in the level of local street gang activity. In my opinion, the show particularly benefitted the area's substantial Hispanic community, since at that time approximately 85% of the area's gang members were Hispanic. Positive, Inc., received many calls from Hispanic viewers who praised the program and noted WHFT's efforts to address an issue of particular concern to that community. Shortly after our appearance on the show, the station contacted me to determine what sort of community response we had received from the program, and to solicit my thoughts on how the program could have been improved. The station subsequently followed up by contacting me from time to time to discuss my activities with Positive, Inc., and the street gang situation generally. This, I felt, showed genuine concern for the community. I was especially impressed by the fact that WHFT's interest in Positive, Inc., and the problem of organized street gangs was not limited to periods in which it was competing in a "ratings sweep," but instead was ongoing and in my opinion sincere.

5. In approximately May of 1991, I began watching the station's programming on a regular basis, usually on weekend mornings. One program that I thought was particularly responsive to community needs and issues was "Feedback," which typically dealt with problems and concerns of the Miami area. The station also broadcast other issue-oriented programming that I believed demonstrated its genuine concern about the needs of the community. The station's programming often promoted the activities of local service organizations that were available in the community to help people with their needs. Although I do not specifically recall the names of particular organizations that the station helped to promote other than Positive, Inc., I do remember some of the problems those organizations dealt with, including issues like education, law enforcement, homelessness, and other topics of concern to the community. I felt that the station's programming during that time was unique because, unlike most other local television stations, WHFT demonstrated a real interest in what was happening in the community. Based on my general familiarity with the station's programming and my conversations with others, it was my opinion that WHFT showed a true concern during that period about local issues, and that it successfully established for itself a niche in the community as a resource that was available to help local organizations reach out to those in need.

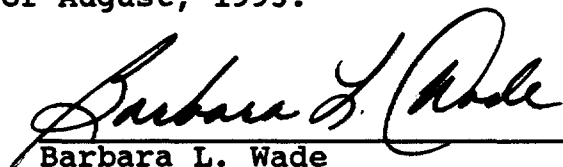
6. I also am aware that the station made efforts during that period to serve the community in ways other than through

its broadcast programming. Specifically, the station frequently promoted civic events and often was identified in local newspapers and advertisements as a sponsor of various community projects and functions. Overall, it was my impression that the station benefitted the Miami community during that period by taking the initiative to address local problems and needs in a genuinely concerned way.

SPONSORING DECLARATION

I, Barbara L. Wade, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 4th day of August, 1993.


Barbara L. Wade

DECLARATION OF MARY G. WASHINGTON

1. My name is Mary G. Washington. I am the Director of the Human Services Department, City of Hallandale. My office is located at the Austin Hepburn Community Center, 750 NW 8th Avenue, Hallandale, Florida, 33009. I reside at 700 NW 5th Court, Hallandale, Florida, 33009.

2. I have lived for the last 36 years in Hallandale. I am submitting this Declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission with my testimony concerning the contributions to the community's welfare made by WHFT-TV, Miami, during its last license term (February 1, 1987 to February 1, 1992).

3. As noted above I am the Director of the Hallandale Human Services Department. Among our responsibilities is to provide welfare and other basic aid services to Hallandale residents. Often people come to us seeking emergency aid because they have come to the end of their financial string, have been evicted, or are facing a financial crisis. We, meaning our social workers, often refer people who are in need of emergency help to the "His Hand Extended" Ministry at channel 45's main studio. Channel 45 makes appeals on television for donations of food, clothing and other items which are collected at the station and distributed to the needy through the "His Hand Extended" ministry at the station. People who appear at the studio receive emergency food and clothing. In the time before a person can qualify for state aid, emergency aid from programs such as "His Hand Extended" are the only resources that hungry and desperate people can turn to. "His

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Hand Extended" therefore responds to a real community need and provides a vital community service, particularly in the area in which the studio is located.

4. Our department also runs a program for Senior Citizens which feeds 85 to 100 low income elderly breakfast every morning. On occasion during the license term channel 45 has provided bread and other breakfast foods for our Senior Citizen breakfast program.

5. Our clients and the people we have spoken to about the "His Hand Extended" program have told me that the station is very responsive when people go there for aid. Our department, and other state departments which I know refer people to "His Hand Extended," would not do so if the program were not well run and doing a good job of serving people in the area in need. The area served by the station, in the south part of the county, is an area with a large number of people in need. "His Hand Extended" is a great help to us, in city government, in helping serving the needs of the community, and is a real benefit to the community.

SUPPORTING DECLARATION

I, Mary G. Washington, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America that the forgoing "Declaration of Mary G. Washington," consisting of two (2) pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 6th day of August, 1993.

Mary G. Washington
Mary G. Washington

DECLARATION OF ISAIAH S. WILLIAMS, JR.

1. My name is Reverend Isalah S. Williams, Jr. I am the Senior Pastor of the Jesus People Ministries Church, Inc., located at 3974 NW 167th Street, Miami, Florida, 33054. I reside at 3845 NW 194th Street, Miami, Florida, 33055.

2. I am an African-American. I am a native Floridian, and have lived in the Miami area all my life (42 years). I am submitting this Declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission with my testimony concerning the contributions to the community's welfare made by WHFT-TV, Miami, during its last license term (February 1, 1987 to February 1, 1992).

3. I am the Pastor the one of the largest African-American churches in the Miami area, with over 2,076 members in the congregation. Because we try to meet the needs of our congregation and the community, our church has a number of outreach ministries, including a prison ministry, a nursing home for the elderly, a food and clothing ministry, and a ministry to the homeless.

4. My wife and I are host and hostess, once a month, of "Praise the Lord--South Florida." We have been hosting the program continuously since 1986. Although I sometimes suggest guests to be interviewed on the program, the guests are chosen by the station's public affairs director. Guests for the program are selected because they have some involvement in an organization or agency that is involved in dealing with a problem that the station's ascertainment of the community needs has revealed is a problem. For example, a particular program will discuss the needs of the

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homeless in South Florida, and we will interview a director of a state agency providing help to the homeless, and/or members or pastors of various ministries assisting the homeless, and/or directors or other representatives of various other agencies or organizations involved in dealing with the problem. On the program I always try to accent the positive, such as the fact that there are people who are personally involved in helping people with the problem or issue under discussion and that there are places that you can go for help and resources available to provide that help.

5. My family and I are also regular watchers of channel 45. My daughter, who is now 16, particularly watched a great deal of channel 45 programming, specifically its children's programming, during the license term. When my daughter was younger she always enjoyed watching "the Gospel Bill Show," an informative program somewhat like "Sesame Street" in that it uses a lot of puppets. The program stressed numbers, colors, and the alphabet, as well as lessons about right and wrong and how to handle various problems with other children. The program stressed positive values, like caring for others and sharing with others, and was very, very good. Other program segments dealt with what can best be called classroom type teaching. My daughter watched the program until she was 12. My daughter also watched and enjoyed a program on Saturday entitled "Super Book." This program was an animated program that gave illustrations about Bible teaching, stressing the moral values to be learned from the Bible, and taught lessons on geography and history as well. This program seemingly was directed at an

elementary and junior high school audience, and that was the time during which my daughter watched the programs.

6. During the license term our whole family watched "KPTL," a program that started with the whole family getting out of bed and starting their day, and often followed various family members through the day. The program taught my daughter a great deal about interfamily relationships, how to get along with others in the family, and also introduced her to what school was like and what she would be learning in school and doing in school. This program greatly reduced her anxiety about going to school, and was very informative.

7. Overall channel 45's children's programming was not only outstanding, but it was enjoyed by my daughter and appreciated by my wife and I because we knew that the programming contained no violence of any kind, and constantly reinforced the lessons about behavior and values that we were and are trying to instill in our daughter. Moreover, the programming was also informative and educational, not only in the moral lessons and lessons about interfamily and interpersonal relationships that were taught, but also in terms of helping her readiness for school and encouraging her to do well in school.

8. Channel 45 is a real asset to the community, whatever their religious affiliation. I have seen many, many people coming to the studio and receiving food and clothing from the station's His Hand Extended Ministry. I have hosted and watched channel 45 programs that were really trying to cater to the community and to

enhance the community's awareness not only of the problem, but also the resources available to cope with the problem. Some people believe that channel 45 has helped them in a very direct and tangible way. One lady in my church was greatly suffering from a terminal disease, and she called the channel 45 prayer line in great pain and distress. The person on the prayer line prayed with her and comforted her, and she believes that her subsequent cure was partly due to the prayer and encouragement that she received from the prayer line. Other members of my church have told me that they have had personal problems which were dramatically impacted by programs on channel 45. Another member of our church was formerly incarcerated and called the channel 45 prayer line from jail. He had problems with substance abuse, and the person on the prayer line prayed with him and encouraged him. He was told to get in touch with our Church and ministry when he was released. He did, and now runs the Church's prison ministry.

9. Finally, I think channel 45 is very important to minorities, such as African-Americans. People who watch channel 45 often see minorities in leadership positions, for example, like myself and my wife, as hosts or hostess' of a TV program. Many of WHFT's program hosts are members of minority groups, both Hispanic and African-American. It is encouraging to the community and helps the minority community identify with the station when they see so many people of color in positions of leadership.

SUPPORTING DECLARATION

I, Rev. Isaiah S. Williams, Jr., hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America that the forgoing "Declaration of Isaiah S. Williams, Jr.," consisting of four (4) pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 1th day of August, 1993.

By: Rev. Isaiah S. Williams, Jr.
Rev. Isaiah S. Williams, Jr.

